

promise and vision of our nation's Constitution in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California, it comes as no surprise that the focus of this grand occasion is also upon Ramona Ripston.

During her lengthy tenure as executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, Ramona Ripston has earned a distinguished record of achievement.

Ms. Ripston was named the executive director of the ACLU of Southern California and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California on September 1, 1972, becoming the first woman to direct the activities of a major ACLU affiliate. She is responsible for all phases of the organization's programs, including litigation, lobbying and education.

During her tenure as executive director, Ms. Ripston has steered the ACLU/SC to regional and national prominence. Under her leadership, the affiliate's staff has expanded from six to nearly 60, and its annual budget has grown to \$6 million. She helped foster ties between the affiliate and some of Hollywood's most prominent figures, including Burt Lancaster, Barbara Streisand, Rob Reiner, Norman Lear, James Whitmore, Camryn Manheim and Rick Nicita. Meanwhile, the ACLU/SC has become a respected voice on crucial issues ranging from freedom of speech and racial equality to immigration, homelessness and abuses by law enforcement.

In August 2006, the Los Angeles Times named Ms. Ripston as one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Southern California. For six years, she served as a member of the California Commission on Judicial Performance. She has been a visiting lecturer for the UCLA Political Science Department, hosted a talk radio program for KABC, and served on the board of directors of the First Amendment Foundation and the Office of the Americas. In 2005 Ms. Ripston was appointed to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. She also serves as a member of the national ACLU's Pension Committee and the Endowment Policy Committee.

Ms. Ripston was a founding member of Death Penalty Focus, and was honored with that group's Abolition Award for 2003. In 2006, she received the Rosa Parks Social Justice Award from the Martin Luther King Legacy Association. She was awarded the William J. Brennan, Jr. Civil Liberties Award in 1991 by the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law. The Western Society of Criminology presented her with the 1980–81 June Morrison Founder's Award, given yearly to a noncriminologist who makes an outstanding contribution to justice in the criminal justice system. Ms. Ripston also has been honored by a number of other organizations and entities, including Women in Communication, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the People's College of Law and the Los Angeles City Council.

She has written and spoken extensively on the rights of women—including reproductive freedom—as well as the Voting Rights Act, the rights of the accused, poverty, homelessness, national security, civil liberties, police, the Constitution and the First Amendment, including censorship. She has lectured at a number of law schools, including Harvard, Yale and UCLA.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Ramona

Ripston on her three decades of outstanding service to the community as head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. As we celebrate the opening of its new headquarters building, I extend to her, and everyone at the organization, my very best wishes for many more years of success ahead protecting the cherished freedoms we all enjoy in our great Nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding two earmarks I received as part of Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008:

1. Account: Operations and Procurement, Air Force (OP,AF).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Electronic Warfare and Network Systems.

Address of Requesting Entity: 485 Cayuga Road, Buffalo, New York 14225.

Other Requestors: Reps. BERKLEY, HIGGINS and Sens. REID, SCHUMER.

Description of Request: An appropriation would be used for the upgrade and modernization of three (3) remaining Unmanned Threat Emitters (UMTE) system located at the Nellis Test and Training Range (southern range 62/63) in Nevada. The upgrade of the UMTE systems takes advantage of mature electronic warfare threat simulation technology and will result in more realistic training, increased aircrew survivability while providing substantial O&M savings.

The current unmodified UMTE systems have shortcomings that negatively impact aircrew training and survivability. The upgrades to the systems modernize the technologies contained therein and provide reactive capabilities which resemble real world surface to air missile and anti-aircraft artillery threats. At the same time the systems are refurbished thus providing a life extension to the equipment, they are connected remotely to Range Control Centers to provide better control and less manpower (O&M savings) and the systems are mobilized to resemble the real threat mobility thereby allowing time sensitive reactions to them. The UMTE's at the Eielson AFB have undergone similar upgrades with connectivity to the control centers with great success within the Air Force. This program continues to take advantage of those advancements across the board with Air Force EW aircrew training and intends to finish the modernization plans for UMTE at Nellis.

2. Account: Research, Development, Training, and Evaluation, Army (RDTE-A).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Southwest Gas Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5241 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, NV 89146.

Other Requestors: Reps. BERKLEY, PASTOR, PORTER, GRIJALVA, and Sen. REID.

Description of Request: In FY2006, Congress initiated a \$1.8 M demonstration pro-

gram for the GEDAC technology at six military facilities in Arizona, Nevada, and California (Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Nellis Air Force Base, Barstow Marine Logistical Station, Yuma Marine Air Station and Fort Huachuca Army Garrison). In FY2008, Congress appropriated \$1.2 M to continue the Gas Engine Driven Air Conditioning (GEDAC) demonstration program. With the FY2008 funds, and in partnership with the participating military installations and program manager, the Army's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), GEDAC units with improved applications and configurations will be installed and demonstrated.

FY 2009 funding would be used to continue the stringent 10-ton GEDAC field tests at four military installations. Additionally, a portion of the funds would be used to develop and demonstrate the new 15-ton GEDAC system, which has widespread applicability on military installations. The demonstration of the 10-ton GEDAC and development and subsequent demonstration of the 15-ton GEDAC system will help address greenhouse gas reductions as well as meet the need for long term efficiency gains on military installations where electricity and electric peak demands are critical.

Energy savings of as much as \$2500 per unit will accrue, enabling installations to meet their energy reduction goals while reducing use of electricity during peak usage (security benefits). Additionally, water savings will accrue and the systems will help bases meet their new environmental goals under Executive Order 13423 and will pave the way for self contained units that contribute to the electricity needs on these bases.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETE SESSIONS.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Defense, Army, RDT&E; Night Vision Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Optex Systems (subsidiary of Irvine Sensors Corp.)

Address of Requesting Entity: 1420 Presidential Drive Richardson, Texas 75081.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$800,000 for the InfraRed Goggle Upgrade System (IRGUS) which is a miniature system that adds thermal imagery to standard issue Night Vision Goggles. Specifically, \$400,000 is for the design for unit production cost, \$100,000 is for production readiness, and \$300,000 is for Block 1 build, integration, and testing. This technology allows legacy NVGs to be upgraded to provide fused thermal/Image Intensification (I²) imagery for improved threat detection, target identification, and situational awareness in low or no light or obscured battlefield conditions.